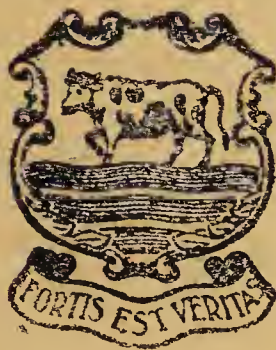


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CITY OF OXFORD.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE


Sanitary Inspector

1923

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SANITARY STAFF.

*Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and
Tuberculosis Officer.*

A. L. ORMEROD, M.D., D.P.H. (Oxon), F.R.C.P.

*Assistant Medical Officer of Health and School Medical
Officer:*

G. COMMELINE WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

*Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under Food and
Drugs Act:*

T. RIDLEY, Certificate of the Royal San. Inst.

Assistant Inspector:

C. H. CLARKE, Certificate of the Royal San. Inst.

Outdoor Assistant:

G. N. WAKE.

Senior Health Visitor and Inspector of Midwives:

Miss M. J. JACKSON, Cert. of Royal San. Inst., C.M.B

Assistant Health Visitors and School Nurses:

Miss E. BUTTON, C.M.B.

Miss GRIBBLE.

Infant Welfare Nurse:

Miss D. FINUCANE

Clerk:

W. J. PRICKETT,

REPORT FOR 1923.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you a report for the year 1923.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the City	...	...	...	4,719 acres
Population, 1911 Census	...	...	...	53,448
„ 1921	„	...	...	57,052
„ 1923 Corrected	...	...	...
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	12,364
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£471,949
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	£1,866

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births.—Total, 876; birth rate, .

Legitimate Births.—Total, 836; male 432, female 404.

Illegitimate Births.—Total, 40; male 19, female 21.

Deaths under 1 year, 39.

Rate per 1,000 births, 44.52.

Deaths.—Total, ; death rate,

The causes of death at various ages are shown in the following table :—

CAUSE OF DEATH.	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1—2 years.	2—5 years.	5—15 years.	15—25 years.	25—45 years.	45—65 years.	Over 65 years.	Deaths in Public Institutions.
Measles	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	5	...	...	2	2	1	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough	5	2	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2
Influenza	4	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	2
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Venereal Disease	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Septic	14	1	...	...	1	3	...	4	5	10
Tuberculosis Respiratory	28	...	...	...	2	3	19	3	1	12
„ Other	11	1	1	...	1	1	5	2	...	7
Cancer	77	...	...	...	...	...	4	36	37	22
Meningitis	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2
Heart Disease	71	...	...	...	...	1	4	18	48	13
Bronchitis	51	4	...	...	...	...	...	8	39	7
Pneumonia	23	3	1	3	1	...	5	3	7	6
Other Respiratory	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	...
Appendicitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	4	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	1
Nephritis	10	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	8	4
Premature Births and Congenital Defects	24	23	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	8
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy & Parturition	2	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...
Violent Deaths	17	1	...	1	2	4	6	1	2	7
Suicide	7	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	3	1
Other Defined Diseases	225	3	...	...	4	4	14	38	162	75
ALL CAUSES	591	39	5	9	16	21	64	123	314	187

The deaths of 49 ‘ residents ’ who died away from Oxford are included in the above table, and the deaths of 157 ‘ non-residents ’ which occurred in Oxford are excluded.

It will be remembered that influenza and respiratory diseases were very prevalent during the first quarter of 1922 and the deaths from these diseases alone show a decrease of 86, while deaths from cancer, heart disease and pulmonary tuberculosis, where the end is often accelerated by bronchitis, etc., were 56 fewer. The small number of deaths during the first few years of life and the high percentage of persons who have exceeded the age of 65 years are most satisfactory.

Deaths in Public Institutions, etc. :—

	Residents (included).	Non-residents (excluded).
Radcliffe Infirmary	84	133
Radcliffe Maternity Home ...	5	5
Oxford Workhouse	46	1
Tuberculosis Section (City) ...	4	—
Warneford Asylum	—	4
City Hospital	10	—
Other Institutions (in Oxford)	6	13
„ „ (out of Oxford)	32	—
Visitors	17	1
	<hr/> 204 <hr/>	<hr/> 157 <hr/>

Inquests were held in connection with the deaths of 33 residents and 10 non-residents in Oxford, and also 8 residents who died away from Oxford.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following table gives a summary of the cases notified.

DISEASE.	Years.	0-1	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-65	65 & over	Total.
Scarlet Fever . . .		3	43	131	39	15	..	231
Diphtheria	4	12	11	1	..	28
Erysipelas	2	..	6	1	9
Typhoid Fever	1	1	2	..	..	4
„ (Para 'B')		..	1	2	2	1	..	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum		18	..	..	..	..	..	18
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	..	1
Pneumonia	2	..	5	10	1	18
T.B. Respiratory (M)		3	3	22	..	28
„ „ (F)		2	6	13	1	22
„ Other (M)		3	5	4	..	12
„ „ (F)		1	1	..	3	3	..	8
Total . . .		22	52	156	76	76	3	385

Scarlet Fever.

The notifications were nearly 80 more than in 1922, but many of the cases were of an extremely mild type and it is probable that there were a good many in which the true nature of the disease was never even suspected. The bulk of the cases were reported from the civil parishes of Cowley St. John, St. Clement's, and St. Ebbe's.

The proportion of adults attacked was unduly large, but there was no evidence at any time pointing to an infected food supply.

Five deaths from the disease were registered during the year, but two of them occurred at the end of December, 1922.

186 of the 231 cases notified were removed to the Isolation Hospital.

Diphtheria.

The notifications numbered 28 against 15 in 1922, but 50 per cent. of the cases occurred in institutions in the City. Of the remaining 14 cases, four occurred in one house and three in another. In the latter instance, the first case contracted the disease in London.

Two of the cases terminated fatally.

Typhoid Fever.

There were four cases of typhoid fever, two of which undoubtedly contracted the disease away from Oxford, and six cases of the Paragraph 'B' variety. No local source of infection was found and in several of the cases the circumstances were in favour of the view that the disease had been contracted away.

All the patients made a good recovery.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

The one case reported unfortunately terminated fatally.

Small Pox.

Oxford was very fortunate in having no cases as two patients were about in the City while suffering from the disease in the early stage before the rash came out. It was possible to trace some of the contacts and carry out a certain amount of disinfection, but it is obvious that the patients must have come into more or less direct contact with a large number of persons in the streets, 'buses, shops and restaurants. If the disease had been in a more highly infected stage, I am afraid there would have been trouble. Some thousands of persons, including about 2,500 children, who were dealt with in the schools with their parents' consent, were vaccinated, but there are still a very large number who are totally unprotected.

The cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, Tuberculosis, etc., are dealt with elsewhere.

TUBERCULOSIS.

On February 19th, the City took over a portion of the Cowley Road Hospital for the treatment of advanced cases of tuberculosis, and the accommodation provided has been extremely useful. Particulars of the arrangements were given in my report for 1922.

Professor Dreyer's work, which was published in the middle of the year, held out hope that at last a specific cure for Tuberculosis had been discovered, and the Professor, with the assistance of Dr. Hobson, kindly consented to give 15 patients an opportunity of receiving the new treatment at the Cowley Section.

The beds have been kept fully occupied and, although the results have not been dramatic, many of the patients have shown distinct improvement. The treatment is still on its trial and we must wait for the verdict of the experts, but there is no doubt that several extremely bad cases who are undergoing the treatment have improved enormously. Considerable alterations and improvements have been effected in the verandahs, etc., and the Cowley Section has been of great service to the City.

The question of dealing with the whole problem of Tuberculosis is now under consideration, and, at the present stage, very little can be said. Negotiations have been re-opened with the Radcliffe Infirmary for dealing with cases at their Headington site—the Orthopaedic Hospital is prepared to deal with bone and joint cases, and the Radcliffe Infirmary with cases presenting special complications. The results obtained by sending ‘delicate’ children to Hermitage are most gratifying and justify an extension of work on these lines, and the possibility of placing infected families under better home conditions is receiving careful consideration. The problem of dealing with very advanced cases is also receiving attention—some of the patients can be patched up for the time by a few weeks in hospital, while others want a place where everything can be done to make their last days as comfortable as possible.

The figures for 1923 are most encouraging.

The deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis fell from 38 to 27 and from other forms of the disease, from 12 to 11.

A similar falling off took place in the number of notifications.

The notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis numbered 50 against 64 in 1922, and included 7 cases notified after death, 2 patients who removed to Oxford, and 3 pensioners notified by the Ministry of Pensions.

There was an increase of two in the notifications of other forms of Tuberculosis. Six of the 20 cases were notified after death and one was notified by the Ministry of Pensions.

At the end of the year there were 380 notified cases on the register (236 being lung cases) and 385 patients under observation. During the year 537 persons, including 273 new patients, attended the Tuberculosis Dispensary, and made 2,441 attendances.

Home Visiting and Institutional Treatment. 2,393 visits were paid to the homes and 25 shelters were in use on December 31st. 87 persons were sent to various institutions, *viz.* : City Hospital, 3; Cowley Road Section, 42; Orthopaedic

Hospital, 10; Radcliffe Infirmary, 10; Bournemouth, 1; Ventnor, 2; Shropshire Orthopaedic Hospital, 2; Cold Ash, 2; Hermitage, 19. 61 improved, 9 died and 17 showed no improvement. Of the 87 patients, 4 were pensioners, 44 insured, 14 not insured, and 25 were under 16 years of age.

Thirty of the 70 patients notified in 1923 were sent to institutions.

VENEREAL DISEASE.

Clinic at the Radcliffe Infirmary.

Number of cases on books : January 1st, 136; December 31st, 134.

Applications for treatment for the first time : 200.

It is much to be regretted that a large number of the patients cease to attend the clinic before the disease has been cured. During 1923, 71 persons completed the full course of treatment and continued to attend until the final tests had been made to prove that the cure was complete, and 51 also completed the course but did not present themselves for the final tests. On the other hand, 30 patients left after completing one or more courses of treatment, and 37 failed to complete a single course.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Midwives.

Thirty midwives, of whom 27 were fully trained, gave notice of practising. One did not practise, four were monthly nurses, and nine were attached to institutions. Of the remaining 16, nine were employed by the District Nursing Association and seven were independent. Thirty routine and 40 special visits were paid by Miss Jackson, the Superintendent of Midwives. One midwife took 173 cases, five between 70 and 40 cases, and two between 30 and 20 cases, leaving 43 cases to be divided between the other midwives, but it must be noted that six midwives took holiday duty only.

1,013 notifications of births were received during the year.

	Live Births.	Still Births.	Total.
Notified by Doctors ...	99	7	106
,, Midwives	513	12	525
,, Institutions	363	19	382
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total ...	973	38	1013
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Eighty-five notices of sending for medical help (52 in the case of the mother and 33 in the case of the infant) were received in connection with the 525 cases dealt with by midwives, and in five cases the mother was removed to hospital.

The number of births registered in the City was 997, a large proportion taking place in institutions as shown in the following table :—

	Residents.	Non-residents
Radcliffe Infirmary Maternity Section	190	112
Radcliffe Infirmary	2	3
Other Public Institutions	8	4
Nursing Homes	29	21
Private Houses	619	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	848	149
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Of the 848 residents, 437 were boys and 411 girls.

Thirty-one of the children were illegitimate.

Work of Official Health Visitors.

First visits to new babies	...	...	...	818
Subsequent visits ... ..	...	...	...	2689
Visits to illegitimate children	...	...	...	284
Special visits to sick children	...	...	...	410
Visits to expectant mothers	...	...	...	500

A total of 4,701 visits, compared with 4,378 in 1922.

Radcliffe Infirmary Baby Clinic.

Attendances of new cases	...	...	...	...	225
Subsequent attendances	...	...	...	...	1386
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	1611.
					<hr/>

Eighteen babies attending the clinic were taken into hospital.

Work of the Radcliffe Infirmary.

The figures given above, dealing with the number of babies born in the Radcliffe Infirmary and the work of the baby clinic, represent only a portion of the work done by the Radcliffe Infirmary in connection with maternity and child welfare. Many cases of disease and accidents in connection with pregnancy and childbirth are dealt with in the hospital, and 170 expectant mothers have attended the ante-natal clinic since April 1st. The City have shown in an eminently practical manner that they appreciate the good work which is being done, by contributing the sum of £1,000 per annum, starting April 1st, 1923, towards the cost.

Work of the Voluntary Association.

There are seven weighing centres scattered all over the City, each of which is open once a week.

The attendances were as follows :—

Children	...	...	...	...	7725
Expectant Mothers	...	...	...	...	255

A total of 7,980 against 5,801 in 1922.

A member of the official health staff was present on 274 occasions. The number of children on the books increased from 689 in 1922, to 839, and of expectant mothers from 70 to 95.

Milk (Mother and Children) Order.

5,713 packets of dried milk were sold, and 154 packets given free, during the year.

Twenty-seven infants under one year of age, 7 over one year, 16 nursing and 7 expectant mothers received fresh milk, and 11 infants were given dried milk during the year, at a cost of £58 7s. 0d. for the former and £11 13s. 10d. for the latter.

Since June 1st, all the fresh milk has been Grade A, or Grade A (Tuberculin Tested).

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Puerperal Fever.

Not a single case was reported.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

There were 18 cases notified. The fact that every case recovered without permanent damage to the eyes is evidence that the average type of case was extremely mild.

There were two deaths as from complications of parturition and pregnancy.

DEATHS.

There were 39 deaths of resident children, under one year of age, registered in Oxford, 5 of which were illegitimate. The particulars are shown below :—

Cause of Death.	Weeks.					Months.					Grand Total.
	0-1	1-2	2-3	3-4	Total.	1-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	Total	
Premature Birth and Congenital Defects ..	16	3	2	1	22	—	—	1	—	1	23
Convulsions ..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Marasmus ..	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	2	2
Tubercular Peritonitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1
Bronchitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	4	4
Venereal Disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
Pneumonia ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	3
Accidents ..	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other Causes ..	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2	2
Total ..	17	3	3	1	24	6	3	5	1	15	39

The total compares favourably with 1922, but there is no improvement in the case of deaths due to prematurity and congenital defects. It will be noted that there was not a single death from measles or diarrhoea.

As far as the births and deaths of residents registered in Oxford are concerned, the Infant Mortality Rate was 46.04 per 1,000 births, that in the case of legitimate children being 41.6 and of illegitimate 166.7.

There are a certain number of children born away from Oxford who have to be added to the number of births. The figures are supplied by the Registrar General, and the corrected rates will be found on the front page of this report.

HOSPITALS, &c.

No home nursing is provided by the Local Authority except in cases of epidemics, but the Acland District Nursing Association has for years been doing extremely good work.

City Isolation Hospital.

The following is a summary of the work done during 1923 :—

	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Tuber- culosis.	Other cases.	Total.
Admitted	200	15	4	9	228
Discharged	188	12	2	7	209
Died	2	2	2	2	8
In Hospital :—					
Jan. 1st, 1923	9	—	1	—	10
Dec. 31st, 1923	19	1	1	—	21

Scarlet Fever.

Eleven children from outside the City and three cases notified in 1922 are included.

Diphtheria.

One non-resident from the Radcliffe Infirmary is included.

Other Cases.

Six cases in which Diphtheria and three in which Scarlet Fever were suspected. Two of the former died of streptococcic infection.

The maximum number in Hospital was 32, the minimum 8 and the average 19.23. Number of days spent in Hospital, 7,020.

Ambulance Facilities.

(a) *Infectious Cases.* A special ambulance is kept at the Isolation Hospital.

(b) *Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents.* A motor ambulance, provided by the Red Cross, is kept at the Fire Station, and is available at a minute's notice by day or night.

LABORATORY WORK.

133 Swabs were examined for Diphtheria, of which 34 were from patients in the Hospital, and 117 specimens of sputum.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Information with regard to places where food is prepared, slaughter-houses, etc., will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's report.

It will be seen that a good deal of work has been done in connection with the milk supplied to the City, and the following information should be of interest. At the end of 1923, during vacation, it was estimated that 4,000 gallons of milk were being distributed daily in Oxford, of which 209 were produced in the City. The supply was obtained from 125 different farms, of which 116 were situated outside the City. An average daily consumption of over half a pint per head of the population is a very satisfactory state of affairs.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The Sanitary Staff consists of:—

A Medical Officer of Health and an assistant, who are also School Medical Officers.

A Sanitary Inspector, who is Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act, and an Assistant who is Housing Inspector. Both hold the Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

One Outdoor Assistant.

A Senior Health Visitor, fully trained nurse, holding the C.M.B. Certificate and Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. Acts as superintendent of midwives.

Two Assistant Health Visitors, fully trained nurses. Both give part time to the school medical service.

One Assistant, fully trained, acting as special Infant Welfare Nurse.

One Clerk.

HOUSING.

Number of houses completed during the year:—

(a) Total 57

(b) As part of a municipal housing scheme 18

The work of providing new houses is beset with difficulties of every sort and progresses slowly, but the increase in the number of houses built by private enterprise is most encouraging. In my report last year I drew attention to the necessity of providing accommodation for a class of the community composed of the aged and feeble and the almost hopelessly lazy and dirty, who occupy the most unsatisfactory houses in the most unsatisfactory courts and alleys in the City. There is no doubt that good houses tend to have a good effect on the tenants, but we do not live in an age of miracles. I would urge that a much-tried Housing Committee should consider the provision of small flats containing a living room, scullery, two bedrooms and a closet, built on

the simplest possible lines, for this class. Such flats would require the minimum of effort to keep clean and the occupants would at least have the advantage of fresh air and sunlight at, I believe, a reasonably low rent.

Unfit Dwelling Houses—Inspection.

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health Acts), 636.

2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulation, 1910, Housing Acts, 414.

Remedy of Defects without service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers, 938.

Action under Statutory Powers.

Proceedings under Public Health Acts: Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied, 110.

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) By owners 1050

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners, nil.

It will be noticed that proceedings under the Public Health Acts were only taken in respect of about 10 per cent. of the houses in which defects were found.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

A. L. ORMEROD,

Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1924.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my fourth annual report, *i.e.*, for the year ending December 31st, 1923.

It embodies the work done by the officials of the Public Health Department during the past year, and shows that in dealing with insanitary premises, in the maintenance of a wholesome food supply, and in taking precautions against adulteration, satisfactory and encouraging results have been obtained.

COMPLAINTS.

During the year, 202 complaints were received at the office of the Sanitary Inspector. These were promptly investigated and the action taken is summarised in the following table, which shows that a large amount of sanitary work has been executed.

SUMMARY.

Description of Works Carried Out.	After Letters or Notices from	
	Inspector.	Committee.
<i>General Inspections, 2619.</i>		
Houses cleansed and limewashed (wholly or partly)	371	89
Houses put in good order (general repairs)	761	201
Ventilation improved	2	..
House roofs repaired	167	39
Spoutings & gutterings repaired or renewed	126	30
Washhouses limewashed	97	26
Washhouses repaired (floors, roofs, copper, etc.)	251	79
Closets repaired, limewashed, etc. ..	130	43
New closet pans fixed	26	4
Closets supplied with water (fittings repaired)	41	7
Additional sanitary accommodation provided	5	..
Houses supplied with water for drinking and domestic purposes .. ..	..	..
Drains cleared	171	2
New drains laid	29	2
Drains repaired, ventilated, etc. ..	21	6
Soil-pipes repaired or renewed ..	4	1
New glazed scullery sinks fixed ..	25	3
New drain traps fixed	51	7
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed ..	35	10
Yards repaved or paving repaired ..	85	31
Yards cleansed	11	1
Nuisances from swine (removed) ..	4	..
Nuisances from other animals (removed) ..	16	..
Accumulations of manure or refuse (removed)	38	..
Drains tested (positive)	5	..
Drains tested (negative)	20	..
Overcrowding	58	..
Filthy rooms cleansed	15	1
Other sanitary improvements made or minor defects remedied	136	32

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are at present within the City four registered Common Lodging Houses, containing 24 bedrooms capable of accommodating 68 lodgers nightly. During the year, 19,686 persons used these rooms, an average of 54 persons per night.

There are also six houses let-in-lodgings, containing 37 rooms with accommodation for 79 lodgers.

All these premises were regularly inspected, and the Bye-Laws and Regulations respecting overcrowding, cleanliness, and ventilation enforced, special attention being paid to the proper separation of the sexes. During the year no complaint has been received of misconduct on the part of any registered keeper.

CANAL BOATS ACT.

All canal boats plying upon the canal within the City boundary are under regular inspection, and during the year 60 boats were examined, on which there were 64 men, 54 women, and 32 children. The ages of the children were said to be :—

Boys.		Girls.	
Under 1 year	... 3	Under 1 year	... 1
1 to 5 years	... 5	1 to 5 years	... 7
5 to 10 years	... 4	5 to 10 years	... 5
10 to 12 years	... 1	10 to 14 years	... 6
	—		—
	13		19
	—		—

The boats were found to be in clean condition and, with the following exceptions, in accordance with the regulations :

Absence of certificate	... ..	2
Painting and repairing	... ..	4
Absence of water vessel	... ..	1
Certificate not identifying owner and boat		1

In each of these cases a notice was served upon the responsible persons to conform to the Acts and Regulations, and the necessary work was duly carried out.

DRAIN TESTING.

During the year the drainage system was suspected and tested for defects in respect of 25 dwelling houses.

In 20 cases the results of such tests were negative, but in the other five were positive. These five drains were therefore immediately repaired or reconstructed.

DISINFECTION.

Special attention has been paid to the disinfection of premises where cases of infectious diseases have occurred, and during the year 508 rooms have been disinfected with formic aldehyde or formalin. In addition the following articles have been disinfected by steam at the disinfecting station, Cold Arbour :—

Beds and mattresses	...	...	36
Pillows and bolsters	...	...	120
Blankets	...	...	17
Other articles	...	...	146
			—
			319
			—

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The whole of the 130 vans visiting St. Giles' Fair were inspected previous to their entrance into the City, and were found to be clean and orderly, a very high standard of cleanliness being maintained in the interiors. The persons accompanying these vans were 265 men, 128 women, and 92 children, all of whom were free from disease.

In previous years, complaints from the residents in West Oxford have been made of considerable annoyance from show people occupying the vans stationed in Ferry Hinksey Road, sometimes for several days before the fair; but last year arrangements were made for the lavatories (Male and Female) at the West Oxford Council Schools to be opened for the convenience of these visitors with the highly satisfactory result that no complaint was received.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are at present 17 registered slaughter houses and 5 licensed slaughter houses within the City, most of them situated in congested areas or abutting upon main streets.

A considerable amount of work has been done in these places : floors repaired or renewed, walls smoothed, and additional light provided, but in most cases the buildings are very old, and although the occupiers try their best to maintain a standard of cleanliness, circumstances are against them.

The only remedy I can suggest is a Public Abattoir of a modern type.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

The three premises in the City where offensive trades are carried on have been regularly inspected, and upon each occasion found satisfactory. The annual licences have therefore been renewed.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS.

All the factories, workshops and bakehouses within the City are under the control of H.M. Inspector of Factories, and during the year eight complaints of breaches of the Acts or Regulations were reported to me, and, after investigation, were remedied.

In one case a complaint was made of sanitary conveniences opening directly into the workroom ; in another the convenience was used by both sexes ; one W.C. was reported to be dirty and additional light required ; the roof of a workshop required repair ; 2 workrooms required cleansing, and 3 bakehouses limewashing.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

Nine farmers are now registered in the City to carry on the business of cow-keepers, four of whom dispose of the milk produced upon their premises as retailers, while the remaining five act as wholesalers.

There are also 46 registered retailers ; but 14 of them are resident outside the City Boundary, and therefore their premises are not open to inspection by me,

Samples are frequently obtained from both wholesalers and retailers, and the particulars of these examinations are reported from time to time.

Three persons are licenced to retail 'Grade A Tuberculin Tested' milk within the City, two of whom hold licences from the Local Authority, while one is licensed directly by the Ministry of Health. There are also two retailers who hold licences to distribute 'Grade A' milk.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

During the past year adequate ventilation has been provided at the men's lavatories in Rewley Road and St. Clement's; and the entrance steps, which had become dangerous, are now fitted with non-slip treads.

A good many repairs of a minor order (locks, etc.) have been necessary during the year, and have been promptly executed. Every measure is taken to keep these places in a satisfactory condition.

The financial returns were as follows :—

	Lavatories.			W.C.'s.			Total.		
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
St. Giles' (Men) ..				42	18	4	42	18	4
„ (Women) ..	9	2	6	163	13	11	172	16	5
St. Clement's (Men) ..	4	5	0	28	8	9	32	13	9
„ (Women) ..	1	13	0	33	5	7	34	18	7
Rewley Road (Men) ..	10	1	8	40	8	8	50	10	4
Blue Boar St. „ ..				17	14	7	17	14	7
	<hr/> £25 2 2			<hr/> 326 9 10			<hr/> 351 12 0		

According to the records of the attendants, the numbers of persons using the free accommodation were, excluding St. Giles' Fair days :—

St. Giles' (Women) ...	17,436
St. Clement's (Women) ...	8,356

FOODS AND DRUGS ACTS.

During the year, 188 samples were obtained from vendors and submitted to the City Analyst, who certified that 179 of the samples were genuine, and 9 adulterated.

Nature of Sample.	No. Examined.	No. Genuine.	Remarks on Genuine Samples.	No. Adulterated.	Reference No.	Nature of Adulteration.
New Milk	110	101		9	A. 458 A. 461 A. 507 A. 521 A. 536 A. 537 A. 557 A. 559 A. 569	9.66 p.c. deficient in fat. 3.00 p.c. " 7.66 p.c. " 9.00 p.c. " 6.33 p.c. " 5.66 p.c. " 20.94 p.c. added water. 19.29 p.c. " 10.35 p.c. "
Margarine	7	7	7 contained Boric Acid, 0.25 p.c., 0.25 p.c., 0.22 p.c., 0.22 p.c., 0.07 p.c., 0.19 p.c., 0.26 p.c.			
Butter	4	4	3 contained Boric Acid, 0.06 p.c., 0.06 p.c., 0.08 p.c.			
Rice	6	6				
Vinegar	12	12				
Cheese	4	4				
Honey	4	4				
White Pepper	8	8				
Coffee	4	4				
Jam	4	4				
Oatmeal	4	4				
Flour	4	4				
Cornflour	4	4				
Lard	7	7				
Dripping	1	1				
Sponge Cakes	3	3				
Medicine	1	1	1 Informal			
Liniment	1	1	1 "			
	188	179		9		

In regard to samples marked A. 458, A. 461, 507, 521, 536 and 537, certified by the Public Analyst to be deficient in fat, warning was sent to the persons responsible to the effect that in future all milk distributed within this City must conform to the standard laid down by the Government.

In connection with sample A. 569, legal proceedings were taken and the Magistrates inflicted a fine of £5 10s. 6d., including the Analyst's fee.

Respecting samples marked A. 557 and 559, summonses were issued, but were afterwards withdrawn upon the payment of full costs, it being proved that the vendor purchased the milk from the person proceeded against in connection with sample A. 569.

No action was taken in regard to small quantities of boric acid found in butter and margarine.

UNSOUND FOOD.

The following articles of food were examined and found unfit for human consumption, and were therefore surrendered to me to be destroyed :—

Beef	...	...	1923 lbs.
Mutton	...	...	153 „
Prawns	...	...	3 tins.
Wet Fish	...	...	17 stone.
Kippers			$\frac{1}{2}$ box.
Milk (Tinned)	...		3 tins.
Sausages	...	...	12 lbs.
Pears	...	...	6 crates (72 tins).

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

The week commencing November 5th, 1923, was selected by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries as 'National Rat Week.'

In order to overcome, if possible, the general apathy about the plague of rats, prizes were offered as an incentive for the largest number of these pests destroyed during that week. Posters were printed and posted throughout the City ;

but the scheme was a complete failure for only one competitor appeared, and he was a professional rat-catcher.

We have continued the practice of distributing rat poison (Barium) free of charge. During the year 123 tins were given to applicants, each containing sufficient for 20 large baits; and general advice and assistance is given to all persons applying for information on this subject. We have not been able to ascertain any definite results, but several of the applicants remarked that this poison was slow but efficacious.

In my opinion, it is very difficult to destroy rats on any large scale, and it may be advisable to revert to the system of paying a small sum for each tail.

OVERCROWDING.

I must again reiterate the fact that serious overcrowding is far too prevalent in the City and that there is still a great scarcity of houses, suitable for the accommodation of the working classes.

I am also bound to call attention to a number of very old houses (some in enclosed yards and courts) which year after year become more and more dilapidated, and have long passed the stage when the necessary repairs would justify the cost, in short, they are clearly doomed to demolition at the earliest possible moment.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the kind courtesy shown to me by the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee and by the Medical Officer of Health.

I also take this opportunity of thanking my Assistant Inspector, C. H. Clarke, for his active and willing co-operation, and of mentioning the interest in their work shown by the juniors engaged in this Department.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS RIDLEY.

